

CITY OF WELLSURBAN SANITARY AUTHORITYREPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTHfor 1951To The Urban Sanitary Authority of the City of Wells.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the Borough during 1951.

GENERAL

The Area of the City is 1301.150 acres.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year resident population of Wells in 1951 was 5,949 (6,240).

The number of inhabited houses in the City at the end of 1951 was 1,779 (1,752).

The rateable value at the end of 1951 was £47,207 (£46,951).

The sum represented by a penny rate at the end of 1951 was estimated at £191 (£188).

BIRTH RATE

The total live births in the City in 1951 was 78 (79) as follows:-

Legitimate 78 (78) Males: 46 (40) Females: 32 (38).  
 Illegitimate Nil (1) Males nil (nil) Females Nil (1).

Still births

Legitimate 5 (3) Male: 1 Female: 4

The birth rate per thousand of the population was 13.1 (12.7).

DEATH RATE

There were 100 (68) deaths in the City from all causes during 1951, 50 (31) males and 50 (37) females.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes.

There were 15 (11) deaths from Cancer and 28 (20) from Heart Diseases.

The death rate per thousand of the population was 16.8 (10.9).

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

Legitimate 6 (1) Male 4 Female 2.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:-

Legitimate 5 Male 3 Female 2.

N.B.

Figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for 1950.



### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There was during 1951 no serious epidemic disease in the City, the greatly increased number of notifications being due to the increased co-operation of doctors in bringing these cases to the notice of the M.O.H. who can thus present a truer picture of the actual number of cases occurring.

Measles	88
Whooping Cough	8
Scarlet Fever	4
Erysipelis	2

There were no deaths from diseases in this group.

### TUBERCULOSIS

At the beginning of the year the number of cases on my register was 24 as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>	
<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
11	8	2	3	13	11

During the year 12 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified.

During the year 8 cases were removed from my register as follows:-

Left the District	3.
Died	1.
Cured	4.

So that at the end of the year the number of cases on my register was 28 as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>	
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
13	11	1	3	14	14

### BUG INFESTATION

No cases were notified during the year.

### SCABIES

No cases were notified which could not be treated at home. The incidence of scabies during 1951 was slight.

### WATER SUPPLY

During the year chlorination has continued at the Spring Head and the Deep Well. A wholesome and sufficient supply has been available throughout the year.

Water main extensions have been carried out on the new local authority housing scheme at Balch Road, involving 400 yards of new main.

A scheme has been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the provision of an additional borehole and pumping plant at the Athletic Ground adjacent to that existing. This scheme was commenced last year, but was discontinued due to the discovery of contamination by phenols in the existing supply. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government advised that the siting of the new borehole should await investigations and further knowledge of the phenol contamination.





These investigations revealed phenols in such small quantities as to be harmless. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have suggested that a sufficient period should elapse to allow these quantities to further diminish. This course has been followed and investigations are continuing.

Results of the samples of water taken for analysis were as follows:-

<u>Raw Water</u>				<u>After Treatment</u>			
<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical</u>		<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical</u>	
Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
4	1	2	-	12	-	Nil.	Nil.

In addition monthly samples of raw water from the borehole at the Athletic Ground were taken to discover the presence of tar acids. The results showed quantities below the minimum detectable by recognised laboratory methods.

#### SWIMMING BATHS

Samples of water from the Swimming Baths are taken at regular fortnightly intervals during the season. The samples are taken from both the shallow or inlet end and from the deep or outlet end of the baths. Fourteen samples were taken throughout the season and all were satisfactory.

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The consultant Engineers of the Council are preparing the Scheme for the reconstruction of the Sewage Disposal Works on lines suggested by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government.

#### HOUSING

##### Number of Houses Erected

	Houses erected during year.	Houses in Conversion course of erection.	Houses to flats or dwellings	Temporary
Local Authority	22	26	Nil.	Nil.
Private Enterprise.	5	1	Nil.	Nil.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Nil.</b>	<b>Nil.</b>

Total number of post-war houses completed

- (a) By Local Authority 165
- (b) Private Enterprise 14.

#### TYPES OF NEW HOUSES

Houses erected by.	Type.	No.	Av. Cost per house.	Av. rent excl. of rates.	Subsidy per year.	Period of Subsidy.
Local Authority	3 Bedroom	10.	£1,321	15/9d.	L.A. £5.10. Govt. £26.10.	60 yrs
	2 Bedroom Bungalows.	12.	£1,084	12/1d.	ditto	60 yrs
Private Enterprise.	3 Bedroom	5	£1,980	-	NIL	-



### HOUSING PROGRAMME

New houses proposed to be erected by Local Authority.

(a) 1952 31      (b) 1953 20

The future programme is dependant upon the sanction of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government. The Council has approved a layout at the Balch Road Housing Estate for 148 houses. Sanction has been received for 115 houses of which 56 have been completed, and 26 were in course of construction, at the end of the year.

### HOUSING APPLICATIONS

The total number of applications for Council Houses at the end of the year was 286.

### OVERCROWDING


The overcrowding situation in the City is not serious but there are isolated cases which will receive attention when alternative accommodation becomes available.

### HOUSING INSPECTIONS

(I)	1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts).	291.
		(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	496.
	2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (Included under sub-head 1 (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932	111.
		(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	200.
		(c)	Number of houses in which no action was found necessary.	77.
	3.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	66.
	4.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of these referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	148.
(II)		(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their Officers.	85
		(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action.	Nil.
		(c)	Number of houses demolished under existing Clearance Orders.	Nil.
(III)			<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</u>	
			Proceedings under section 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act. 1936	Nil.
			Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	Nil.
			Proceedings under section 12 Housing Act 1936	Nil.

### HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

A weekly combined house refuse and salvage collection is carried out in the City.



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MILK SUPPLY

(a) Total number of Registered Dairy Farms	7.
(b) Total number of Retailers.	6.
(c) Number of Producer/Retailer included in (b)	1.
(d) Number of Licensed Pasteurisation Plants	1.
(e) Number of heat-treatment plants not included in (a)	Nil.
(f) Number of Supplementary Licences issued to dealers or distributors.	2.

MILK SAMPLING

<u>Designation.</u>	<u>Sample Taken.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Tuberculin Tested.	45	39	6
Accredited	-	-	-
Pasteurised	21	18	3
Sterilised	-	-	-
Undesignated	-	-	-
Totals	66	57	9

Biological Sampling

No samples were taken for biological examination.

ICE CREAM

Number of Premises Registered:-

(a) For Manufacture	5
(b) For Retail	27.
(c) For Manufacture and Retail	28

Ice Cream Sampling

188. The total number of samples taken during the year was  
The results were as follows:-

	<u>Hot Mix</u>	<u>Cold Mix</u>
Grade I	136	24
Grade II	10	8
Grade III	5	2
Grade IV	2	1
Totals	153	35

MEAT SUPERVISION

(a) Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses in District	4
(b) Number of Registered Slaughterhouses in District	5
(c) Number in use by Ministry of Food.	Nil

KNACKERS YARDS

Number registered in District	Nil.
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RIVER POLLUTION

Number of cases dealt with during the year	Nil.
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Alan W. Woolley M.B., Ch.B.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

H.C. Birch M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
SANITARY INSPECTOR

